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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/591,654	09/05/2006	Lysander Chrisstoffels	295111US0PCT	3130
22850	7590	09/18/2009		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER PEZZUTO, HELEN LEE				
ART UNIT 1796		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 09/18/2009		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/591,654

Applicant(s)

CHRISSTOFFELS ET AL.

Examiner

Helen L. Pezzuto

Art Unit

1796

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/CDC)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1-9 in the reply filed on 8/17/09 is acknowledged.
2. Claims 10-12 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 8/17/09.

In claim 1, after "polymerization temperature is \leq 70°C", do applicants intend "and" instead of "und"?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosoda et al. (US-600) or JP 2003-096112.

US 4,380,600 to Hosoda et al. discloses an aqueous dispersion of water soluble polymer prepared by dispersion

polymerization of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer in the presence of 3 to 150 parts by weight of a water soluble polymer and an inorganic salt (see abstract; col. 3, lines 18-32; col. 7, lines 10-31). Suitable ethylenically unsaturated monomer include vinylpyrrolidone among others (col. 5, line 22), and suitable water soluble polymer include those containing carboxyl group, which fall within the scope of the instant polymeric anionic dispersant (col. 5, lines 38-62). Prior art disclose a polymerization temperature of 10-100°C, wherein the polymerization may be conducted batch wise or continuously (col. 6, line 65 to col. 7, line 4). The preparation of a N-vinylpyrrolidone/acrylamide copolymer dispersion was exemplified (col. 15, Example 34).

JP 2003-096112 discloses a water-soluble dispersion derived from dispersion polymerization of 5-100 mol% of a monomer set forth in formula (1), and 0-95 mol% of a nonionic monomer, in the presence of inorganic particles, a polymeric dispersant in aqueous salt solution (see abstract, [0009]). Suitable nonionic monomer include N-vinylpyrrolidone ([0026]). Suitable polymeric dispersant include ionic polymers derived from carboxylic acid and

sulfonic acid monomers, thus, encompassing the instant polymeric anionic dispersant ([0018]).

5. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1396508 A1 in view of WO 98/14490.

EP-508 discloses the preparation of an aqueous cationic polymer dispersion containing 1-99 wt% of a cationic monomer, 1-99 wt% of a water-soluble monomer polymerized in the presence of 1-100% of a salt, and 0.1-20 % of an amphoteric dispersant (see abstract). Suitable water-soluble monomer include N-vinyl lactam (i.e. N-vinylpyrrolidone) (page 4, [0027]), and suitable polymeric dispersant includes anionic monomers having carboxylic acid and sulfonic acid moieties (page 6, [0054]; page 7, [0060]). Prior art teaches any inorganic or organic salt, inclusive of those taught in WO 98/14405 which is incorporated by reference (page 6, [0045]-[0046] (also see WO-405, page 2, line 25). WO 98/14490 further discloses the suitability of citrates, acetates as organic salt in the preparation of aqueous dispersion (see WO-490, page 21, lines 34-35). Moreover, the inclusion of chain transfer agent used to adjust the molecular weight of the polymer product is expressly taught (page 7, [0063]).

Prior art references discussed above teaches the instant process with the exception of the recited K value. The examiner takes the position that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to prepare a polyvinylactam dispersion having any molecular weight (i.e. K value) via use of chain transferring agents as taught in EP-508 and via the use of viscosity modifier such as salt and dispersant, absent showing of unexpected result derived from the recited process in obtaining a polyvinylactam dispersion having the claimed. K value.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Helen L. Pezzuto whose telephone number is (571) 272-1108. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM to 4 PM, Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wu can be reached on (571) 272-1114. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Helen L. Pezzuto/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1796

hlp